

Dear FCC,

This is in regards to the petition RM-10806 filed by Mr. Frank W. Napurano, K2OKA. Mr. Napurano requests that the FCC retain the current 5 WPM Morse code licensing requirement "in the interest of public safety, the preservation of a radio art and as a tribute of support for a prized and respected avocation."

I agree with this petition filed by Mr. Napurano. The Morse code requirement should remain. Morse code is also still being widely used in the amateur radio service, the commercial industry, and by people who are physically disabled or handicapped as a means of communicating with others. American NASA Astronauts to this day still use Morse code as a means of being able to communicate should their voice communications happen to stop working, and the U.S. Navy still uses Morse code using light too.

The Commission has already encouraged the use of Amateur Radio by reducing the Morse code speed requirement from 20 words per minute to 5 words per minute. And by reducing the classes of license from 6 to only 3, Technician, General and Extra, also by the creation of the No-code license in the 90s. But now people want additional free privileges and also want to do away with the Morse code requirement based on what other governments are doing, or because some groups say it is obsolete when it is not.

The governments or countries that still require Morse code testing for amateur radio licensing or HF access, far exceed those countries or governments that do not. In my opinion for the Commission to do away with the Morse code requirement would be a big mistake that would only damage amateur radio's future and its reputation of having certified, skilled, qualified, and competent operators. We the United States should not make our decisions based on what other governments are acting upon.

The fact that lots of radio amateurs have taken and passed the Morse code examination requirement over the years for HF access and continue to pass it even now, shows that Morse code testing is not a hindrance, limiting, or preventing licensed amateurs from upgrading, it does not prevent people from getting an amateur radio license either and the Amateur Service community is not suffering from the loss to its ranks of a large number of potentially excellent operators because of the Morse code requirement as some people claim.

The requirement for new prospective amateur applicants as well as other radio amateurs to demonstrate a Morse code skill for HF access should remain as it is now and should not be changed or removed. If it's not broken don't fix it. Amateur radio does not need fixing, the current licensing requirements are fine as they currently are.

Morse code and its testing requirement is an essential part of the amateur radio service and should not be removed. Operating privileges should not be given away wholesale by the Commission, especially when the additional privileges people are now asking for can be easily gained by taking the current amateur radio exams in order get more operating privileges, something that most people don't seem to want to do.

Instead of removing the Morse code requirement, more emphasis should be placed on amateurs improving their operating practices while on the air, and on knowing and understanding the Amateur Radio Service Rules and Regulations, something most licensed radio amateurs seem to lack now a days. I say yes to RM-10806

Sincerely,

Victor Magana, N1VM